Distr.
GENERAL

IDB.27/13
20 June 2003

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Industrial Development Board

Twenty-seventh session
Vienna, 26-28 August 2003
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

PREPARATIONS FOR THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Report by the Director-General

Provides general information on the organization of the work of the General Conference, tenth session, including items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

Introduction

1. The General Conference of UNIDO is the principal organ of the Organization, consisting of representatives of all Members (Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the Constitution). The main functions of the Conference are stipulated in Article 8.3 of the Constitution. In particular, the Conference should determine the guiding principles and the policies of the Organization. Unless it decides otherwise, the Conference is to hold a regular session every two years, at the seat of the Organization (Article 8.2). The last regular session (ninth) of the Conference was held in Vienna from 3 to 7 December 2001.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Date and place of the Conference

2. At its ninth session, in decision GC.9/Dec.22, the Conference decided that its tenth session should be held in Vienna from 1 to 5 December 2003. In this connection, as for previous sessions, the Austrian Federal Government has placed at the disposal of UNIDO conference facilities at the Austria Center Vienna (ACV) free of charge for meetings that cannot be accommodated by the conference facilities of the Vienna International Centre.

B. Office space for delegations

3. Office space for delegations and their permanent missions required during the tenth session of the Conference can be rented in the ACV. Delegations wishing to rent such offices are invited to contact, as soon as possible, Ms. Sabine Hagenauer, Project Manager, ACV (telephone 260 69 ext. 2350).

C. Budgetary matters

4. The resources available for holding the tenth session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 2002-2003, total €1,279,900. The budget of the Conference is based on the following assumptions:

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V.03-85270 (E)

Distr.: 11 July 2003

(a) The session will last five working days providing for 10 plenary meetings, four main committee meetings and five geographical group meetings;

(b) Interpretation for plenary and main committee meetings and documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish);

(c) Summary records, which will be provided for plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee, will be issued—to the extent possible—in English during the session and the other five languages will be issued as soon as possible after the session.

D. Agenda

5. In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Board prepares the provisional agenda for each session of the General Conference. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides guidelines for the contents of the provisional agenda of a regular session of the Conference. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 12, the Board shall prepare that provisional agenda on the basis of a list of items proposed for inclusion as submitted by the Director-General.

6. Annotations indicating briefly the history of each item, the proposed documentation, the substance of the matter to be discussed and earlier relevant decisions by the Conference or other organs of the Organization will be issued following the twenty-seventh session of the Board.

7. A list of items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present document, together with an indication of relevant mandates for the items.

E. Documentation

8. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, documents required for consideration of items on the provisional agenda shall be distributed by the Director-General in all languages of the Conference to all recipients of the provisional agenda, as far as possible at the same time as the provisional agenda (ninety days before the opening date) and in any event not later than forty-five days before the opening date of a regular session.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

9. In tandem with the session and as encouraged by the Conference in resolution GC.9/Res.1, it is planned to hold a forum on "The role of industrial development in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals". The forum would provide an opportunity for high-level participants to communicate their views on this important topic, and is also proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the session (annex, item 9). In addition, several round-table discussions on development issues will be organized during the period of the Conference. Specific details on the forum and the round tables will be provided as planning progresses.

10. At its previous sessions, the Conference established a main committee to which it allocated a number of agenda items. The Board may wish to recommend to the Conference a similar procedure for its tenth session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see para. 4 above). Items 7 to 16 and item 18 of the proposed draft agenda would thus be referred to the main committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary.

11. The work of the previous sessions was also facilitated by setting up, under the guidance of the President of the Board, informal consultations for the preparation of the Conference. Such an informal group, composed of representatives of permanent missions to UNIDO in Vienna, has met prior to previous Conferences and has prepared a report to the Conference containing recommendations that cover most of the items on the agenda as well as organizational matters.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

12. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following decision:

"The Industrial Development Board:

"(a) Takes note of the information provided in document IDB.27/13;

"(b) Adopts the following agenda for the tenth session of the General Conference.

[...]

"(c) Agrees to hold a forum on "The role of industrial development in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals" within the framework of the General Conference (provisional agenda, item [9]);

"(d) Recommends to the Conference that items 7 to 16 and item 18 of the provisional agenda be allocated to a main committee of the Conference;

"(e) Recommends that, in the light of experience gained in the preparation of previous sessions of the Conference, the President of the twenty-seventh session of the Industrial Development Board conduct informal consultations for the preparation of the tenth session of the Conference."

Annex

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

General Conference, tenth session
1-5 December 2003

		Mandate
1.	Opening of the session.	Rule 34
2.	Election of officers.	Rule 35
3.	Adoption of the agenda.	Rule 17
4.	Organization of work.	Rules 44-47
5.	Credentials of representatives to the Conference.	Rule 28
6.	Elections to organs:	Rule 102
	(a) Industrial Development Board;	Constitution, Article 9.1
	(b) Programme and Budget Committee.	Constitution, Article 10.1
7.	Annual reports of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization for 2001 and 2002.	Rule 13.1 (b)
8.	Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh regular sessions.	Constitution, Article 8.3 (b) Rule 13.1 (c)
9.	The role of industrial development in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (forum).	Rule 13.1 (b) (Submitted by Director-General—see para. 9 above) GC.9/Res.1
10.	Financial matters:	
	(a) Scale of assessments of Member States;	Constitution, Article 15 Rule 13.1 (k)
	(b) Financial situation of UNIDO;	Rule 13.1 (l) IDB.26/Dec.3 IDB.26/Dec.4 (h)
	(c) Working Capital Fund;	Financial regulation 5.4 PBC conclusion 2003/5
	(d) Transition to a single currency system;	GC.8/Dec.16 (e)
	(e) Appointment of an External Auditor.	Financial regulation 11.1
11.	Implementation of the medium-term programme framework, 2002-2005.	GC.9/Res.2 (4)
12.	Medium-term programme framework, 2004-2007, including:	GC.2/Dec.23, GC.6/Dec.10 IDB.26/15
	(a) Field representation;	
	(b) Application of the strategic guidelines "Towards improved UNIDO programme delivery";	
	(c) Integrated programmes and country service frameworks;	
	(d) Service modules.	
13.	Programme and budgets, 2004-2005.	Constitution, Articles 8.3 (c) and 14 Rule 13.1 (i)
14.	International Centre for Science and High Technology.	GC.9/Res.4 (3)
15.	UNIDO Staff Pension Committee.	GC.1/Dec.37
16.	Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.	GC.1/Dec.41, annex
17.	Application for observer status.	Constitution, Article 4.1
18.	Date and place of the eleventh session.	Rule 13.1 (s)
19.	Closure of the session.